

California's Citizens Redistricting Commission Calls On The Public To Submit Testimony For The First Draft of District Maps Commission Must Receive Public's Submissions By May 23rd

Public Can Submit Testimony Online, By Fax, Mail Or At A Public Hearing

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2011

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The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is calling for the public to submit their testimony on the drawing of district boundaries no later than May 23rd in order to be considered by the Commission for the first draft of district maps. The Commission was created by California voters to draw state Congressional, Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization Districts. The public can submit their testimony online, by fax, mail or at a public hearing.

The public is encouraged to present testimony about the community they live in, describing the kind of people who live there, important issues, community centers and community history. Speaking up about their community is critical to ensuring district lines are drawn to keep their community whole and grouped with nearby communities with similar interests. The Commission would also like to know about communities which do not share common interests which could be placed in another district.

Along with census data, publicly submitted comments will be used to assist the Commission when it begins drawing district boundaries.

The Commission encourages the public to submit writtentestimony by e-mail at votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov, fax at 916-651-5711, or by mail to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P Street, Suite 154-A, Sacramento, CA 95814. Once the testimony is received it is posted online, given to each of the Commissioners and catalogued by area by the Commission's line drawers.

In addition to taking written testimony the Commission has been holding public hearings across the state. Hearing dates before the drawing of the first round of draft maps are as follows:

- Thursday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Palm Springs City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.
- Friday, May 13, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., California State University San Marcos, The McMahan House Great Room, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos.
- Saturday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m., Educational Cultural Center, 4343 Oceanview Blvd., San Diego.
- Thursday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Placer County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn.
- Friday, May 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Santa Rosa City Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa.

- Saturday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Oakland City Council Chambers, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.
- Sunday, May 22nd, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Salinas City Council Chambers, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas.
- Monday, May 23rd, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Mayfair Community Center, 2039 Kammerer Avenue, San Jose.

The maximum time for each speaker is 2 minutes. Speakers should provide copies for the 14 members of the Commission of documents they are submitting as testimony. Speaker numbers may be obtained one hour prior to the posted time of the hearing. The posted meeting time may not extend more than 2 hours beyond the original closing, subject to venue limitations and speaker demand. No speaker numbers will be given out after the end of the posted meeting time. Due to high speaker demand, it is possible that not all people who have been given numbers will have the opportunity to speak.

Please visit the Commission's website at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov for complete information on the hearings and to access a guide to help you prepare your testimony.

The first round of draft maps will be released by the Commission on June 10th.